

1279 BC

Ramesses II, also known as Ramesses the Great becomes Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt (19th Dynasty)



1902

Boer War Ends; Treaty of Unity signed, Britain annexes Transvaal

1910

Union of South Africa declares its independence from the United Kingdom

1935

7.7 magnitude earthquake destroys Quetta in Balochistan, British India (now Pakistan) killing an estimated 40,000 people

# News

the truce



South of Khartoum

requiring "urgent" action from the international community. The rainy season is set to start, threatening to make parts of the vast northeast African country inaccessible and raising risks of malaria, cholera and other-borne diseases.

## of UN nuclear news: media

IAEA... the case related to one of the agency's alleged spies -- Abadeh -- has been revived, Iran's Fars news agency reported. "This concludes the agency's inquiry into one of the three alleged locations used," it added.

The Marivan site in Abadeh county in the southern province of Fars is the first of three sites to be addressed under a work plan agreed by Iran and the IAEA in March last year.

The other two sites are Varan and Turqzabad.

The IAEA's concerns about the sites are one of the remaining obstacles to the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, which is left in tatters by the unilateral withdrawal of the United States in 2018.

Fars also reported that Iran had addressed IAEA concerns about the discovery of uranium enriched to close to the level required for a nuclear warhead. Iran said the enrichment of the sample to 83% is likely due to "unintended situations" in the enrichment process as it had never set out to enrich uranium more than 60%, still well short of the 90% needed for a warhead.

# Drones hit Moscow high-rises as Kyiv struck for third day

● Eight drones were used in the attack

AFP | Moscow

A swarm of drones hit Moscow yesterday in an unprecedented attack, while Russian drones struck Kyiv for a third straight day as Ukraine gears up for a major offensive against Russian forces.

The Russian defence ministry blamed Kyiv for the attacks that saw three drones crash into residential buildings in Moscow.

Officials said no one was seriously injured and there was only "minor" damage to buildings.

The Russian defence ministry said that eight drones were used in the attack, adding that five of them were downed and three disabled.

Of the three that hit residential buildings, two crashed into high-rises located in Moscow's affluent southwest, while a third damaged a residential building in a suburb of the capital.

The other drones fell outside Moscow. Some of the debris was found around 15 kilometres from President Vladimir Putin's Novo-Ogaryovo residence.



A specialist inspects the damaged facade of a multi-storey apartment building after a reported drone attack in Moscow

One video shared on social media showed an explosion followed by a column of smoke rising into the sky.

Two drones were intercepted over the Kremlin earlier this month but Tuesday's attack was the first time that unmanned aerial vehicles hit residential areas of Moscow, hundreds of kilometres from the front lines in Ukraine.

The raids are likely to be seen as a psychological blow and a major

embarrassment for the Kremlin, which has gone to great lengths to say the protracted conflict in Ukraine does not pose a threat to Russians.

The Kremlin insisted that there was no "threat" to Russians, adding that Putin was being informed of the attacks in "real time".

**US says does not back attacks inside Russia**

Meanwhile, the United States said yesterday that it does not

back attacks inside Russia after drones hit Moscow high-rises, but said Russia bore responsibility for the war with Ukraine.

"As a general matter, we do not support attacks inside of Russia. We have been focused on providing Ukraine with the equipment and training they need to retake their own sovereign territory," a State Department spokesperson said as Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Sweden.

The spokesperson said that the United States was still assessing what happened in Moscow, where residential buildings were hit for the first time since Russia invaded Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin blamed Kyiv.



Ukraine said it had downed 29 out of 31 drones, mainly over Kyiv and the Kyiv region in the latest Russian barrage -- the third on the Ukrainian capital in 24 hours

# Lebanon army frees kidnapped Saudi

Beirut

A Saudi national who had been kidnapped in Beirut has been freed in a "special operation" by the Lebanese army near the Syrian border, it said in a statement yesterday.

"An army intelligence patrol managed to free kidnapped Saudi national Mashari al-Mutairi during a special operation on the Syrian border," the army said.

"A number of those involved in the kidnapping were also arrested," it added.

A senior Lebanese security source had said on Monday that, based on preliminary informa-



The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Beirut

tion, the Saudi was kidnapped by unidentified assailants dressed as security personnel in a four-wheel drive vehicle on the Beirut seafloor, where he had been in a restaurant.

Prime Minister Najib Mikati congratulated the army on the "great effort deployed to release him and arrest those involved in the kidnapping."

According to Saudi government-owned television channel Al-Ekhbariya, the kidnappers had demanded a ransom.

Kidnappings of Arab or foreign nationals in Lebanon have been rare in recent years.

# Malaysia searches Chinese ship suspected of looting WWII wrecks

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's coast guard said yesterday authorities were questioning the crew of a Chinese vessel detained on suspicion of looting two British World War II shipwrecks.

Officers discovered unexploded shells upon boarding the Chinese-registered vessel, which was detained for illegal anchorage at the weekend, said Nurul Hizam Zakaria,

Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency chief in Johor state.

"Our investigation is now directed to where these cannon shells originated from. Right now, we have officers from multi-agencies searching the big ship," he told AFP.

Nurul Hizam said the vessel from the city of Fuzhou had a crew of 32 comprising 21 Chinese



A Chinese vessel after anchoring near Tanjung Siang on the waters of the Malaysia's Johor state

nationals, 10 Bangladeshis and one Malaysian, some of whom were in coast guard custody for questioning.

A senior Malaysian maritime

official told AFP on condition of anonymity that the pieces of metal and shells could have originated from two sunken British warships. More than 800 Brit-



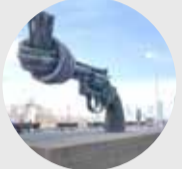
Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency shows an old cannon shell

ish sailors were killed when the HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse were torpedoed by Japanese aircraft in the South China Sea.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



The "Knotted Gun" sculpture is a universal symbol of non-violence on display at @UN Headquarters in NYC. It is a reminder that we all need to overcome divisions and to provide hope in place of turmoil. Peace is needed now more than ever.

@antonioгутerres

02



Delighted to welcome King HM Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia. Our nations share deep historical and cultural ties, and we look forward to strengthening our friendship and cooperation even further. May his visit mark a new chapter in India-Cambodia relations.

@narendramodi

03



Scrolling through Tweets while watching mini video (pic in pic) is great

@elonmusk

04



We're investing in America we can take pride in - one where working families have good-paying jobs and more breathing room.

@POTUS

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